

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19 have been pending.

Claims 1, 2, 11-16 and 19 are rejected.

Claims 3-10, 17 and 18 are allowed.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 19 are cancelled without prejudice and claims 13-14 are amended; thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added and accordingly, entry and approval of the amended claims 13-14 is respectfully requested

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

ITEM 3: CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §101

Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 USC 101 because, allegedly, "the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. 'A computer program' in the respective first lines of claims 12-15 is asserted to be insufficient to render the claims tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable."

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 13-14 are amended taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-14 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

ITEM 8: ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action indicates that claims 3-10 and 17-18 are allowed. Furthermore, the Office Action fails to reject claims 13-14 over any prior art. In accordance with the foregoing, the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of claims 13 and 14 is traversed, therefore applicants respectfully submit that claims 13 and 14 also contain allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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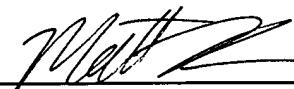
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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